



REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I FOOTBALL BOWL  
SUBDIVISION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 6-7, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Item.

- **Football – Notification of Transfer – Undergraduate and Postgraduate Student-Athletes – Written Offer of Aid Before Signing Date – Recruiting Calendar. Amend Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) legislation as follows.**

- (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee recommends the NCAA Division I Administrative Committee adopt legislation to modify the head coach departure exception that allows a student-athlete to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal during a 30-day period following the departure of a head coach. Specifically, to establish a 15-consecutive day notification-of-transfer period beginning five calendar days after the hire or the public announcement of a new head football coach. If a head coach is not hired or announced within 30 calendar days after the departure of the head coach, the 15 consecutive day window begins on the 31st day, provided the 31<sup>st</sup> day occurs after January 2. The head coach exception may not occur prior to the winter notification of transfer period (e.g., January 2, 2026). The 15-consecutive day window may not extend beyond June 30.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The modification of the head coach departure exception provides institutions and student-athletes clarity on the opening of the notification-of-transfer period. Many head coaching changes occur prior to the notification-of-transfer period and aligning the exception with the hire of a new head coach instead of the departure of a head coach provides student-athletes an opportunity to evaluate their options and future with the new coach before deciding whether to initiate the notification-of-transfer process.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Varies by institution.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The modification provides student-athletes with an opportunity to evaluate options with the institution's new head coach before deciding whether to initiate the notification-of-transfer process.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Football bowl certification framework for the upcoming postseason bowl bid cycle.**  
The committee approved the postseason bowl certification framework for the 2026-27 postseason bowl bid cycle and directed staff to work with the FBS conferences' football administrators to ensure primary bowl commitments are aligned with historical averages and anticipated bowl-eligible teams based on conference realignment and the transition by specific conferences from an eight to a nine-game conference football schedule.
2. **First contest date rule.** The committee continued its discussion about the FBS first contest rule and requested interest from committee members to serve on a subcommittee to review the football playing and practice season calendar (first contest date, end of football season, spring/summer practice). The committee discussed the challenges associated with a one-by-one playing season, which currently exists for the 2026 season, and conference scheduling, including the impact of realignment, team travel and buyouts associated with current game contracts. The committee agreed to review requests to waive the first contest date for the 2026 season during the November 2025 and December 2025 videoconferences. The committee will exercise their authority to render a decision for each request and the committee's decision on each waiver request is final. Finally, the committee directed all requests to waive the first contest legislation for 2026 to be submitted in RSRO and include the following information for the committee's consideration:
  - a. Include statements from the involved institution's Directors of Athletics and Conference Office(s).
    - (1) Include relevant facts and mitigation surrounding the request.
    - (2) Identify the steps taken to identify another opponent and satisfy current legislation.
  - b. Include the involved institution's current and proposed 2026 football schedule.
    - (1) Identify away contests or neutral contests on the 2026 schedule, including (a) the number of times zones traveled, (b) the distance traveled, and (c) approximate duration of travel (e.g., one hour, 45 minutes).
    - (2) Identify the involved institution's bye week(s) and the number of consecutive contests without a bye week.
    - (3) Identify the involved institution's 2026 opponents scheduled to play during "week zero" in 2026 and whether those contests met a first contest exception or required a waiver.
  - c. Identify any contests cancelled or rescheduled due to the involved institution's (or opponent's) conference transition to a nine-game conference schedule.

- d. Identify any challenges with facility availability or scheduling conflicts affecting the involved institution's ability to satisfy the first contest legislation.
  - e. Identify any financial gains, benefits or consequences for the involved institutions and/or conferences as a result of being able to conduct the contest prior to the first contest date.
3. **Division I Football Rules Subcommittee.** The committee received an overview of the NCAA Division I Football Rules Subcommittee, including the subcommittee's composition, charge and authority.
  4. **Identify FBSOC Strategic Priorities.** The committee identified bowl subdivision football strategic priorities for the 2025-26 academic year. Priorities identified by the committee included a review of the playing season (i.e., spring and summer calendars), the four-game participation exception, the impact of conference realignment on scheduling, the first contest date, and potential referrals to the football rules subcommittee.
  5. **Joint meeting with the NCAA Division I Academics and Eligibility Committee, NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision Oversight Committee, NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee and NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee.** The FBSOC received an update from the NCAA Office of Legal Affairs, NCAA Government Relations, and the Collegiate Sports Commission.
  6. **Appointment of new members.** The committee appointed new committee representatives for FBSOC vacancies. Notifications to the appointees will follow the established process and rosters will be updated in accordance with the start date for service.
  7. **American Football Coaches Association update.** The committee received an update from the AFCA.
  8. **Future meeting dates.**
    - TBD.

*Committee Chair: Mark Alnutt, University of Buffalo, the State University of New York.*

*Staff Liaisons: Geoff Bentzel, NCAA Division I Governance and Member Services.*

*Jenn Fraser, NCAA Division I Governance and Member Services.*

*Ty Halpin, NCAA Championships and Alliances.*

*Kris Richardson, NCAA Governance and Member Services.*

<b>NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee October 6-7, 2025, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Mark Alnutt, University of Buffalo, the State University of New York; Mid-American Conference.
Craig Bohl, American Football Coaches Association.
Josh Brooks, University of Georgia; Southeastern Conference.
Shonna Brown, Pac-12 Conference.
Matthew Dennis, Wake Forest University.
Justin Fuente, College Football Playoff.
Keith Gill, Sun Belt Conference.
Alan Green, University of Southern California.
Erick Harper, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Mountain West Conference.
Mike Hill, University of North Carolina, Charlotte; American Conference. (alternate)
Bryan Maggard, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Sun Belt Conference.
Chris McIntosh, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Big Ten Conference.
Dan Radakovich, University of Miami (Florida); Atlantic Coast Conference.
Todd Stewart, Western Kentucky University; Conference USA.
Michael Strickland, Atlantic Coast Conference.
Gene Taylor, Kansas State University; Big 12 Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Bret Bielema, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
Lisa Campos, University of Texas at San Antonio; American Conference.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Shamaree Brown, Iowa State University; NCAA Pathway Program participant.
Niesha Campbell, Marshall University; NCAA Pathway Program participant.
Rick Canter, Jacksonville University; NCAA Pathway Program participant.
Sam Edwards, Michigan State University.
Kevin Kendrick, Florida International University; NCAA Pathway Program participant.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Geoff Bentzel, Jenn Fraser, Ty Halpin and Kris Richardson.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
DJ Brown, Amanda Conklin, Brittney Jackson, Chris Johnson, Travis Johnston, Greg Johnson, Leilani Hubbard, Jackson Marcotte and Greg Pottorff.